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DECISIONS ADOPTED BY THE FORTY-NINTH SESSION OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE

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A (49) THE WORK OF THE COMMISSION AND ITS FUTURE ACTIVITIES

The Economic Commission for Europe,

Conscious of the important role of the ECE as an instrument for the implementation of the principles and aims of the United Nations Charter at the regional level,

Emphasizing the importance of the Charter of Paris for a New Europe, the Helsinki Document 1992 "The challenge of change" and the documents of other relevant meetings of the CSCE in particular the documents of the Bonn Conference on Economic Cooperation and having in mind that these documents also contain recommendations directed towards the future work of the Commission,

Taking note of the Executive Secretary's Note on the programme of work for 1994-1998 (E/ECE/1290) and taking into account decision P (45) taken by its forty-fifth resumed annual session and the ECE budget for the 1994-1995 biennium approved by the forty-eighth session of the General Assembly and the Medium-Term Plan for the period 1993-1997,

Concerned that, in spite of its decision E (48) on the provision of adequate resources for the servicing of the priority sectors and other sectors of the ECE, the effective and efficient management of the ECE remains impeded by unfilled vacancies at the professional level in particular because of the continuing procedural difficulties in recruiting qualified personnel on a timely basis,

Reaffirming its decision J (48) of 26 April 1993,

Noting the desirability to encourage a synergetic approach among and between ECE Principal Subsidiary Bodies within the context of sustainable development, as well as assistance to countries in transition,

1. Reaffirms its determination to continue to implement decisions O (45) and P (45) of the forty-fifth resumed session, requests its subsidiary bodies to continue to carry out the provisions of decision O (45) when reviewing and carrying out their programmes of work, and further requests the Executive Secretary to continue to implement the provisions and recommendations contained in decisions O (45) and P (45) where the work of the secretariat is concerned and to report to the fiftieth session of the Commission;

2. Requests its subsidiary bodies to take into account in their work the pertinent provisions of the relevant CSCE documents which call for multilateral implementation within the framework of the Economic Commission for Europe and invites them to contribute to the practical follow-up of the second CSCE Economic Forum held in Prague from 15-17 March 1994 on matters where the ECE has competence and can provide expertise and experience and which at the same time avoid possible duplication with activities undertaken by other international organizations;

3. Also requests the Executive Secretary to contribute, if invited to do so, to the CSCE Review Conference, which opens in Budapest on 10 October 1994 and which ends with a Summit meeting on 5 December, in order that the CSCE participating States are fully aware of the relevant activities of the ECE, and to report to the Commission, as soon as possible, on the outcome of this CSCE Review Conference, insofar as it contains recommendations directed toward the future work of the Commission;

4. Approves its programme of work for 1994-1995 and endorses, in principle, subject to review at its fiftieth session, its programme of work for 1994-1998;

5. Notes with appreciation the Executive Secretary's note (E/ECE/1292) on the implications of Resolutions of the General Assembly and of ECOSOC for the work of the UN/ECE, including General Assembly Resolutions 47/166 of 18 December 1992 and 48/204 of 19 November 1993 on international cooperation and assistance to alleviate the consequences of war in Croatia and to facilitate its recovery, requests the Executive Secretary to bring the work of the Commission to the attention of the Secretary General to assist him in the preparation of the reports which he is required to submit to the Assembly and invites its subsidiary bodies to study possible action to contribute to global programmes of the United Nations including forthcoming or recent global Conferences or international years;

6. Takes note with appreciation of the Summary Document prepared by the secretariat (E/ECE/1301), the report of the Chairman of the Commission on his consultations with the bureau of the Principal Subsidiary Bodies (E/ECE/1300);

7. Calls upon the Principal Subsidiary Bodies, in cooperation with the Department of Humanitarian Affairs, the WHO and the IAEA, taking into account their respective spheres of competence, to continue to contribute to the work of the Commission to mitigate the consequences of the Chernobyl accident;

8. Decides to hold a meeting of experts, in conjunction with the next session of the Working Party on Engineering Industries and Automation and in consultation with its Bureau on the organizational aspects of such a meeting, to consider proposals to convene a possible European Forum on Sustainable Industrial Development;

9. Invites also the Governments of the ECE member States, interested international, governmental and non-governmental organizations especially UNIDO, UNEP and the ICC taking into account the relevant activities in the field of sustainable industrial cooperation, to submit their views and proposals for consideration by the meeting of experts;

10. Urges the UN Secretary General in restructuring the UN Secretariat to consider positively the possibility of future strengthening of the Commission by transferring to it, in addition to the ten posts of regional advisors, adequate

human and financial resources taking into account the areas of competence of the ECE;

11. Requests the Executive Secretary to take urgent action to fill the professional vacancies and to bring to the attention of the Secretary General of the United Nations the need to provide resources necessary to maintain the ECE's efficiency and effectiveness and invites him to provide regular information on the deployment of resources both under the regular budget and from extra-budgetary contributions to Permanent Missions in Geneva and to the Principal Subsidiary Bodies;

12. Requests the Executive Secretary to transmit the present decision as well as other decisions of this session, together with the views expressed or agreed in relation thereto by member Governments, to the Principal Subsidiary Bodies concerned and requests them to take these into account in their work and when reviewing their respective programmes.

B (49) DIVERSIFICATION OF FORMS AND METHODS OF THE COMMISSION'S ACTIVITIES DESIGNED TO ASSIST COUNTRIES OF THE REGION IN TRANSITION TO A MARKET ECONOMY AND THEIR INTEGRATION WITH THE EUROPEAN AND GLOBAL ECONOMY

The Economic Commission for Europe,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 48/181 on integration of the economies in transition into the world economy,

Reaffirming its resolution 1 (1992-S), decision B (48) and all its other relevant decisions,

Mindful of the valuable role of the ECE in assisting the countries in transition and of the experience gained within areas of its competence as well as through the programme of workshops, seminars and other similar informal activities on transition issues organized under the ECE auspices,

Noting the contributions already made and continuing under the auspices of the G-24, the European Union, various international organizations and bilateral programmes to assist countries in transition,

Concerned by the persisting difficulties encountered by the countries in transition and aware of the necessity to enhance cooperation in the ECE region with a view to achieving dynamic economic development in the ECE region, in particular in the countries in transition,

1. Takes note of the report of the Executive Secretary on the ECE activities designed to assist countries in transition (E/ECE/1287);

2. Requests the Executive Secretary to undertake necessary steps to implement the proposals contained therein with special attention to the establishment in consultation with Governments of all interested member

countries, the Commission of the European Communities, international organizations and private bodies, of a list of experts and specialists in the problems of privatization and of transition of different economic sectors to market conditions, whose services could be offered to interested countries in transition, providing advisory services in the areas mentioned in para. 32 of the report E/ECE/1287 and further requests the Executive Secretary to explore the possibility of providing information on training courses available to representatives of the business community of countries in transition;

3. Confirms the importance of continuing the programme of workshops and seminars which proved to be of practical importance to the countries in transition;

4. Reaffirms its conviction, as contained in its resolution 1 (1992-S), of the necessity to ensure, in response to ECOSOC decision 1992/43, that all ECE member States can participate fully and effectively in the work of the Commission, and to that end decides, through the Trust Fund for Assistance to Countries in Transition (TFACT), to provide financial assistance to the countries in transition for their participation in the ECE programme of workshops and in meetings of ECE subsidiary bodies;

5. Invites its Principal Subsidiary Bodies and the Executive Secretary to coordinate their activities to provide expertise and assist countries in transition with the European Union and relevant international organizations, in particular with OECD, CSCE, EBRD, UNDP, UNCTAD, the World Bank with a view to avoiding duplication of efforts;

6. Recommends to the Governments of countries in transition to undertake a constructive exchange of their experiences in moving to market oriented economies, and requests the Executive Secretary to provide necessary expertise and assistance to this kind of activity and to coordinate such activity with relevant international organizations to avoid duplication of effort;

7. Invites Governments of the member countries, relevant international organizations and institutions as well as other potential donors to make contributions to the UN/ECE Trust Fund for Assistance to Countries in Transition (TFACT) to finance the programme of workshops, seminars and other forms of activities on transition issues organized under the ECE auspices;

8. Underlines the importance of an active interaction between its activities to provide expertise and assist countries in transition and the appropriate arrangements to be made within the United Nations Secretariat in the light of General Assembly resolution 48/181;

9. Recommends that the ECE shall be a focal coordinating point within these arrangements with a view to promoting and enhancing mutual cooperation with UN global programmes and with international institutions and within their respective mandates.

C (49) PROMOTING THE EXPANSION OF TRADE FOR PRODUCTS FROM THE

COUNTRIES IN TRANSITION IN INTERNATIONAL MARKETS

The Economic Commission for Europe,

Confirming its decision B (48), in particular operative paragraph 4,

Recalling the provisions of the Helsinki Declaration and in particular the determination of the CSCE participating States to intensify their efforts to help economies in transition through increased market access,

Concerned by still existing constraints to trade among the countries of the ECE region,

Recognizing that further liberalization and expansion of trade among western countries and economies in transition, as well as enhancing their trade potential, are essential for the success of the market-oriented reforms in countries in transition in order to create favourable conditions for a further increase in their exports and for the inflow of foreign investments into their economies,

Recognizing also the importance of assistance to the countries in transition in improving the competitiveness of their goods in international markets,

Acknowledging that export earnings constitute an important factor in overcoming difficulties in the eastern countries caused by transforming their economies and that eastern exporters account for only a small share of international markets,

Aware of a sharp decrease in exports and at the same time of an important rise in imports by many countries in transition due, inter alia, to structural adjustments linked to the transition process,

Considering that the bilateral association agreements of several countries in transition with the European Union, free-trade agreements with EFTA countries and the efforts of other ECE member States to open their markets constitute positive steps to the liberalization of intra-regional trade, in particular among the members of the above-mentioned agreements,

Conscious of the importance of developing viable trading relationships among countries in transition,

Convinced that the provisions of the Final Act of the Uruguay Round should contribute positively to the expansion of trade in the ECE region, in particular to the exports of the countries in transition to international markets,

1. Urges the member States of the ECE to examine, in a positive way, specific needs of the countries in transition for promoting the expansion of trade, including improvements in market access and in market competitiveness;

2. Requests the Executive Secretary in consultations with the member States of the ECE to prepare a study containing recommendations on ways and means of promoting the expansion of trade of the countries in transition;

3. Decides to arrange during the fiftieth session of the Commission a "round table" on "Promoting the expansion of trade of the countries in transition as an important factor of their integration with the European and global economy".

D (49) ECONOMIC COOPERATION IN THE MEDITERRANEAN IN THE LIGHT OF THE FINAL ACT OF THE CONFERENCE ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE

The Economic Commission for Europe,

Reaffirming its decision C (48) and its prior decisions adopted by the Commission on this subject,

Bearing in mind that several Commission member States in the Mediterranean are developing from an economic point of view,

Noting the growing awareness of the need for joint efforts by all Mediterranean countries so as to strengthen economic, social, cultural and environmental cooperation and in promoting stability and peace in the Mediterranean region in the light of the Final Act of the CSCE, the Charter of Paris for a New Europe and the Helsinki Summit Declaration 1992,

1. Takes note of the Executive Secretary's report E/ECE/1288 on Activities of the ECE to implement the pertinent provisions of the Final Act of the CSCE and other CSCE documents, including the Charter of Paris for a New Europe and the Helsinki Document 1992, and particularly the relevant part of the report pertaining to economic cooperation in the Mediterranean;

2. Welcomes the adoption in 1993 by the Senior Advisers on Environmental and Water Problems of the comprehensive guidelines for practical application of the ecosystem approach in day-to-day water management intended to assist countries in the Mediterranean region and stresses the need for continued efforts by the ECE for the protection and amelioration of the Mediterranean ecosystems;

3. Calls upon the Executive Secretary to continue to undertake action-oriented studies, including specific analysis of existing economic cooperation between ECE Mediterranean countries, to identify effective means of enhancing economic cooperation in the Mediterranean, both in the priority and non-priority areas of the ECE, taking into account the limits of available resources and the independent nature of that analysis, for consideration by the Principal Subsidiary Bodies and the Working Parties of the Commission in their programmes of work;

4. Requests the Executive Secretary to continue to cooperate with the Executive Secretaries of the other relevant United Nations bodies concerned and to pursue his contacts with the other Mediterranean countries not members of the

Commission, with a view to increasing interregional cooperation on the subjects within the competence of the ECE and which are of common interest to the Mediterranean countries;

5. Takes note of the recommendations and conclusions of the evaluation report for the period 1992-1993 on the studies relating to the project on the Europe-Africa permanent link through the strait of Gibraltar prepared by the ECA and the ECE and requests the Executive Secretaries of the ECA and the ECE to take an active part in the follow-up to the project and to report thereon to the ECOSOC at its Substantive session of 1995 pursuant to ECOSOC resolution 1993/60;

6. Welcomes the convening of the 18th Meeting of Experts on Human Settlements Problems in Southern Europe (Nicosia, Cyprus, 6-8 June 1994) which will focus on planning for sustainable tourism development in the Mediterranean countries;

7. Welcomes the convening of the Workshop on Renewable Sources of Energy, relating to the greater use of renewable sources of energy in the interest of sustainable development for the Mediterranean region, being held in Almeria, Spain from 3 to 6 May 1994 and organized by the Plataforma Solar de Almeria of CIEMAT in cooperation with the UN/ECE;

8. Welcomes and takes note of the Chairman's Summary of the CSCE Mediterranean Seminar held in Valletta, Malta, from 17-21 May 1993, which discussed inter alia the identification of possible areas of cooperation in the environmental sphere as a follow-up to the results of the Palma de Mallorca Meeting, the demographic trends and migration, including the social and economic background of these issues, and practical ways of cooperation between the non-participating Mediterranean States and the CSCE in the light of the Helsinki Document;

9. Takes note also of the CSCE Council Meeting held from 30 November to 1 December 1993 where non-participating Mediterranean States were represented at the level of Ministers and where strong interest was expressed in ECE programmes which could involve all Mediterranean countries;

10. Takes note with satisfaction of the decision of the CSCE Committee of Senior Officials Meeting held in Prague in March 1994, aimed at expanding the dialogue between the CSCE and non-participating Mediterranean States which share the Principles and Objectives of the CSCE;

11. Calls upon Mediterranean countries to intensify efforts and identify areas for cooperation as a follow-up to the CSCE Mediterranean Seminar and seek to enlarge both cooperation and dialogue with non-participating Mediterranean states on the basis of the CSCE Helsinki Decisions;

12. Requests the Executive Secretary to report to the fiftieth session on the implementation of this decision.

E (49) THE CONTRIBUTION OF THE ECE TO THE COMMEMORATION OF THE

FIFTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE UNITED NATIONS

The Economic Commission for Europe,

Recalling General Assembly decision 46/472 of 13 April 1992 and resolution 48/215 of 23 December 1993 on commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations in 1995 and bearing in mind the recommendations of the Preparatory Committee for the Fiftieth Anniversary,

Convinced that the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations should mark the efforts of the ECE to foster the aims of the United Nations with due regard to ECE resolution 1 (1992-S),

Conscious of its responsibility as an instrument for the implementation of the principles and aims of the United Nations Charter at the regional level, and as a multilateral forum for European cooperation in the economic and related fields and noting, in this context, the importance of the strengthening of cooperation and coordination of activities between the ECE and international organizations, institutions and programmes acting in the region,

Convinced that the strengthening of cooperation in the economic and related fields within the framework of the ECE constitutes a major contribution from the United Nations system to the efforts presently undertaken to assist countries in their transition to market economies and their integration into the world economy,

Taking into account the importance of ensuring an appropriate ECE contribution to global fora on social and economic development issues, in particular the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 1995, the Fourth World Conference on Women, Beijing, 1995,

1. Takes note of the secretariat's note E/ECE/1289 on the ECE contribution to the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations in 1995;

2. Decides to include the activities envisaged in paras. 5-8 of the above-mentioned note in connection with the commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of the United Nations in the programme of work of the ECE for 1994-1998;

3. Requests the Executive Secretary to address, in appropriate form, the Secretary-General of the United Nations with a request to allocate sufficient resources within the existing United Nations regular budget for the implementation of the programme activities of the Commission with due regard to para. 2 of this decision;

4. Further requests the Executive Secretary to prepare a report on the current contribution of the ECE to the global programmes and development of other regions of the world,

5. Invites the Executive Secretary to initiate preparations for the fiftieth anniversary of the creation of the Economic Commission for Europe to be commemorated in 1997, and requests him to report to the Ad Hoc Informal Meetings of the Commission on the activity of the secretariat in this area with the view to considering and making appropriate recommendations;

6. Approves the text of the "Declaration on the strengthening of the role and functions of the Economic Commission for Europe and on its contribution to the global programmes of the United Nations and to the development of other regions of the world" (Annex) and requests the Executive Secretary to forward the present Declaration to the Secretary-General of the United Nations and Chairman of the forty-ninth session of the UN General Assembly;

7. Requests the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its fiftieth session on the implementation of this decision.

ANNEX

DECLARATION ON THE STRENGTHENING OF THE ROLE AND FUNCTIONS OF THE ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR EUROPE AND ON ITS CONTRIBUTION TO THE GLOBAL PROGRAMMES OF THE UNITED NATIONS AND TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF OTHER REGIONS OF THE WORLD

The Representatives of Governments of the Member States of the Economic Commission for Europe,

Bearing in mind the mandate of the Commission and conscious of its role as an instrument for the implementation of the principles and aims of the United Nations Charter at the regional level,

Recalling the Commission's resolution 1 (1992-S) of 5 October 1992,

Recognizing the particular role which the Commission plays in the European region as a multilateral forum for European cooperation in economic and related fields and its capacity for an interdisciplinary approach and for flexible adjustment to the ongoing changes in the region and noting, in this context, the importance of strengthening of cooperation and coordination of activities between the ECE, the European Union and international organizations, institutions and programmes acting in the region,

Noting that the UN/ECE has reviewed its programme and methods of work according to decision O (45) by establishing 5 priority areas and streamlining the structure and the activities of the Commission,

Noting also that the UN/ECE membership has increased from 34 in 1990 to 54 with almost half of them being countries in transition, thus bringing the UN/ECE to the largest membership of all UN Regional Commissions,

Taking into account that the Conference on Security and Cooperation in Europe in its Helsinki Summit Declaration and Decisions (July 1992) recognized "a key role" to be played by the UN/ECE, together with the EBRD and the OECD, in the construction of a new Europe,

Aware at the same time that despite the recent increased volume of the UN/ECE activities due inter alia to the increased membership and the growth of activities to meet the needs of the countries in transition, the resources of the Commission are under pressure,

Emphasize the significant contribution of the UN/ECE to the global policy-making process in economic area, to the implementation of the UN global programmes as well as to the development of other regions of the world;

Express their readiness within existing resources to assist fully to the maximum involvement of the UN/ECE in the implementation at the regional level of resolutions of the UN General Assembly, ECOSOC and other competent

intergovernmental bodies, related to development of cooperation in fields within its competence, especially in the priority sectors of its activities;

Stress the need for a more effective distribution of responsibilities between the UN/ECE on the one hand, and UN Headquarters and global programmes, on the other hand;

Stress the importance of the provision of adequate resources for the servicing of the priority and other sectors of the Commission;

Consider that as recommended in paragraph 26, Annex IV of Assembly resolution 32/197, the necessary authority should be delegated from Headquarters to the ECE and adequate budgetary and financial provision should be made to enable the ECE to implement its mandated programme of work and to discharge its responsibility for coordination and cooperation at the regional level within the UN system, in close cooperation with the efforts undertaken by other relevant international bodies.

F (49) COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF ENVIRONMENT AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The Economic Commission for Europe,

Recalling its decision F (48) on cooperation in the field of environment and sustainable development,

Conscious of the importance of sustainable development for the global community as a whole and this Commission's members in particular and stressing the multi-faceted nature of sustainable development, as well as the need to maintain a comprehensive view of this Commission's work,

Recognizing the need to ensure that policies in all sectors, including those relating to the transport sector, are consistent with sustainable development,

Taking note of this Commission's proposals and activities to implement Agenda 21,

Taking note with satisfaction of the progress made in strengthening coordination and cooperation with the European Union and the other organizations and institutions that are active in the field of environment and sustainable development in the region, such as UNEP, the OECD and the Council of Europe,

Stressing the necessity to consolidate such coordination and cooperation in order to make optimal use of existing resources and to avoid duplication of work, so as to be able to respond better to the needs of the countries in the region, particularly those in transition,

Taking note of the declaration of the Ministerial Conference "Environment for Europe", held at Lucerne from 28 to 30 April 1993,

Taking note of the decisions of the Special Session of the Senior Advisers on Environmental and Water Problems (SAEWP), held on 12 January 1994,

1. Takes note of the revised structure of the programme of work of the Senior Advisers on Environmental and Water Problems, henceforth to be named the Committee on Environmental Policy;

2. Endorses the proposed terms of reference of the Committee on Environmental Policy, as recommended by the Senior Advisers at their special session on 12 January 1994;

3. Requests all relevant Principal Subsidiary Bodies, taking into account their respective spheres of competence, to strengthen their activities in the field of environment and sustainable development, and invites the Committee on Environmental Policy to identify problems and bottlenecks in these fields and to make recommendations for appropriate action to the Commission at its fiftieth session;

4. Takes note with appreciation of the submission by the secretariat to the Commission on Sustainable Development, in accordance with ECE decision F (48), of the draft UN/ECE Action Plan to implement Agenda 21, which received general approval of the Senior Advisers to ECE Governments on Environmental and Water Problems at their special session on 12 January 1994, and requests the secretariat to clarify the resource implications (both human and financial) of the above draft Action Plan and to provide this information to the Committee on Environmental Policy at its next session;

5. Endorses the creation by the SAEWP of the Working Group of Senior Governmental Officials to serve as the central coordinating body for the further development of the "Environment for Europe" process and in that capacity, inter alia, to oversee the follow-up to the Lucerne Conference and the substantive preparations of the next "Environment for Europe" Ministerial Conference;

6. Requests the UN/ECE secretariat to support within existing resources the follow-up to the Lucerne Conference, including the work of the Working Group of Senior Governmental Officials mentioned above, in accordance with the Lucerne Ministerial Declaration;

7. Welcomes the decision by the Lucerne Conference to develop and gradually extend, in cooperation with UN/ECE, the OECD Country Environmental Performance Review Programme to Central and Eastern Europe and invites the ECE secretariat progressively to increase its responsibilities in the further extension of this review system; all ECE member States are invited to consider, as appropriate, voluntary and temporary contributions for the reviews;

8. Invites ECE member States and the European Union to support the preparatory process for the follow-up conference in Sofia in 1995;

9. Takes note of the report of the Executive Secretary on the Feasibility of a Regional Conference on Transport and the Environment and decides that such a

Conference should take place in 1996 under the auspices of the ECE, along the lines of decision G (49);

10. Calls upon the Inland Transport Committee and the Committee on Environmental Policy to cooperate in the promotion of sustainable development in their respective work plans;

11. Calls again upon all ECE member States and the European Union to consider, if they have not already done so, ratification of or accession to, as appropriate, the following ECE conventions:

- the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution,
- the Convention on Environmental Impact Assessment in a Transboundary Context,
- the Convention on the Transboundary Effects of Industrial Accidents,
- the Convention on the Protection and Use of Transboundary Watercourses and International Lakes;

12. Further calls upon all ECE member States and the European Union to consider ratification of or accession to the NOx and VOC protocols and to consider signature, ratification of or accession to, as appropriate, the 2nd Sulphur Protocol under the Convention on Long-range Transboundary Air Pollution;

13. Finally requests the Executive Secretary to report to its fiftieth session on the action he will have taken to implement this decision.

G (49) COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF TRANSPORT

The Economic Commission for Europe,

Recalling its decisions O (45), F (48) and G (48),

Reiterating the continued high priority of the work of the Commission on cooperation in the field of transport,

Conscious of the problems of countries in transition in developing market economy mechanisms in the field of transport and with a view to maximizing the contribution of the transport sector to the national economy,

Stressing consequently the importance of the development and building of an efficient, safe and sustainable network of transport infrastructures meeting accepted environmental standards for the development of the economies in the region, in particular of countries in transition,

Reiterating the need to ensure close cooperation with the European Union and organizations dealing with transport questions with a view to developing European Transport Policy Concepts and to avoid duplication of work and waste of resources,

Underlining its conviction that the ECE has a prominent role in regional transport cooperation,

1. Takes note with appreciation of the report and the conclusions of the fifty-sixth session of the Inland Transport Committee;

2. Welcomes all pertinent contributions of the Committee to the thorough preparation of the second European Transport Conference related to the work of the regulations for vehicle technology, transport of dangerous goods and combined transport;

3. Takes note of the report of the Executive Secretary on the Feasibility of a Regional Conference on Transport and Environment and decides that such a Conference should take place in 1996 under the auspices of the ECE;

4. Agrees to the setting up of a Preparatory Committee at experts level, including technical and scientific expertise, as proposed in the study which should decide on its working modalities and make proposals for the organization and objectives of the Conference, covering also budgetary aspects, and requests the Executive Secretary to initiate immediately the necessary preparations for a first session of the Preparatory Committee in June 1994;

5. Requests the Preparatory Committee to submit an interim report on the results achieved especially with regard to the envisaged topics for discussion of the Conference, its possible output and its organization and financing well in advance of the fiftieth session of the Commission to allow for a proper preparation of additional decisions on the substance of the Conference and its formalities;

6. Endorses the programme and the modalities for the second European Road Safety Week in spring 1995;

7. Reiterates the work undertaken to update the Provisions concerning the Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Inland Waterways (ADN), takes note of the view of the Inland Transport Committee that harmonization is desirable with the regulations for the Carriage of Dangerous Substances on the Rhine (ADNR), urges the need for their completion and invites the Inland Transport Committee to consider possibilities of adapting the status of the ADN in view of greater uniformity of the prescriptions for the carriage of dangerous goods on inland waterways in Europe;

8. Urges the Inland Transport Committee to continue its work on the restructuring of the Annexes to the ADR with a view to facilitating their application not necessarily only for international transport under the ADR regime, but possibly also for national traffic;

9. Welcomes the adoption and the signature of the Protocol to the Agreement concerning the International Transport of Dangerous Goods by Road (ADR), in Geneva, Switzerland, until 31 January 1994 by 14 Parties and underlines

the priority for further harmonization of international regulations for the transport of dangerous goods;

10. Commends the Inland Transport Committee for the timely conclusion of work on the Convention on Customs Treatment of Pool Containers used in International Transport and encourages Governments and the European Union to sign the Convention during the period for signature until 14 April 1995 in Geneva, Switzerland;

11. Takes note with appreciation of the increasing number of Contracting Parties to other ECE Agreements and Conventions and invites Governments which have not yet acceded to those, especially if they are not yet in force, to examine possibilities for doing so;

12. Supports the appeal of the Inland Transport Committee to ECE member Governments concerned to endeavour to implement any possible measure aimed at preventing hindrances to international road and railroad transport occurring at frontier crossings;

13. Underlines the importance of further development and early completion of joint road and rail infrastructure projects (TEM and TER and others) and invites ECE Governments, the European Union and relevant non-governmental institutions to cooperate closely with the Commission and TEM and TER countries in the implementation of the objectives agreed upon with a view to taking them into account in the further development of European transport networks;

14. Requests member Governments to increase their efforts to identify bottlenecks and missing links in international infrastructure networks and to propose solutions in the framework of the relevant ECE Agreements in order to solve these problems;

15. Stresses the importance of work in the field of transport statistics and the need for continued substantive contributions of the ECE to an intensified joint effort with ECMT and EUROSTAT to harmonize transport statistics for the region;

16. Supports the ongoing work on the revision of the 1958 Agreement Concerning the Adoption of Uniform Conditions of Approval and Reciprocal Recognition of Approval for Motor Vehicle Equipment and Parts and expresses the view that this revision should be finalized in 1994;

17. Requests the Executive Secretary, taking into account the difficulties of countries in transition in introducing the international rules on transport of dangerous goods into national legislation, to undertake additional initiatives to accelerate the translation of reports and publications on related issues into all working languages;

18. Endorses the decision of the Inland Transport Committee to develop regulations for combined transport on inland waterways and possibly in coastal shipping and encourages it to turn it into a legally binding instrument;

19. Endorses Resolution No. 243 of the Inland Transport Committee on the Improvement of the Traffic Flow of ATP Vehicles for the transport of foodstuffs covered by the ATP Agreement;

20. Decides that the Inland Transport Committee may hold its annual sessions in the middle of January but underlines the need for the Inland Transport Committee to ensure the submission of its report to the Ad Hoc Informal Meeting to be held in January each year;

21. Welcomes the decisions of the fifty-sixth session of the Inland Transport Committee aimed at rendering assistance to countries in transition and calls upon the Committee to intensify its activities to assist them in the implementation of economic reforms in all inland transport sectors, including privatization, the adaptation of respective legislation and the development of transport infrastructures interlinked and compatible with other European networks;

22. Invites ECE Governments, the European Union and international financial institutions to contribute to existing trust funds of the ECE, e.g. TFACT, TEM and TER, to permit activities mentioned in paragraphs 13 and 21 above;

23. Commends the Executive Secretary for his decision to make arrangements to provide the Transport Division with at least one additional post of Regional Adviser so that appropriate assistance could be provided in the field of inland transport to central and eastern European countries;

24. Reiterates the necessity to appoint professionals sufficiently qualified and experienced to fill the vacant posts in the Transport Division to redress the unsatisfactory situation already prevailing for more than two years and to maintain the number and level of its professional and other staff and requests the Executive Secretary to keep the Inland Transport Committee regularly informed of the situation in that field;

25. Calls upon the Executive Secretary to report to the Commission at its fiftieth session on the implementation of this decision.

H (49) METROLOGICAL ASSURANCE OF TESTING

The Economic Commission for Europe:

Recognizing that results of measurements are the basic facts on which decisions are taken in testing;

Noting that metrological assurance of testing serves as a means for establishing confidence in the necessary quality of testing;

Considering that there may be differences between principles, methods and means for estimating the uncertainty associated with test results;

Realizing that such differences can create non-tariff barriers to international trade;

Taking into consideration that the harmonization of the above-mentioned principles, methods and means is required for:

(a) creating preconditions for the mutual recognition of test results by establishing confidence in the results of measurements which serve as their basis;

(b) ensuring the possibility of independent assessment and documentary confirmation of the competence of testing laboratories.

RECOMMENDS THAT:

1. ECE Governments should support the development and implementation of fully harmonized standards,*/ guides and technical regulations promoting methods and means of metrological assurance on the basis of the international documents and recommendations of the International Organization of Legal Metrology (OIML) as well as the standards and guides of the International Organization for Standardization (ISO) and the International Electrotechnical Commission (IEC).

2. National technical regulations relevant to international trade and industrial cooperation should contain requirements for the competence of testing laboratories for different types and categories of tested products, particularly with regard to the methods and means of obtaining measuring information used for the estimation of the uncertainty associated with test results.

3. The appropriate level of competence of testing laboratories and, consequently, the metrological assurance level should be established according to criteria that ensure a high level of confidence when estimating parameters characterizing the products from the point of view of their safety and influence on health and environment.

4. General stipulations, rules and requirements in national standards and technical regulations should cover the following types of metrological activities:

- Metrological control or servicing including the corresponding verification or calibration of auxiliary or supplementary measuring instruments used for testing;

- Metrological qualification of test equipment (stands, set-ups, chambers intended for reproduction of test modes and conditions);

- Metrological validation of test methods (procedures) and computer software used in testing;

- Processing and recording of test results including measurement results and uncertainties assigned to such results.

5. When developing national standards and technical regulations, the bodies concerned should take into account that each accredited testing laboratory must have a set of measurement standards traceable to national or international measurement standards. Documents on methods for validation of test procedures and for estimation of the uncertainty associated with test results should be submitted to the accrediting body including results of interlaboratory comparisons. However, preference should be given to methods based on the use of certified reference materials and recognized national or international standard methods and procedures.

6. With the aim of facilitating mutual recognition of test results, documents should be presented in connection with the accreditation of testing laboratories, confirming their technical competence including the limiting values (for example, the smallest uncertainty associated with test results) and the methods and means of their achievement and confirmation.

7. Manufacturers, suppliers or customers submitting products for testing should have the right to check the documentation of the testing laboratory and/or its claim of being capable of achieving the desired level of technical competence required for testing.

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*/ In science and technology, the English word "standard" is used with two different meanings: as a widely adopted written technical standard, guide, technical regulation or similar document (in French "norme") and also as a measurement standard (in French "étalon"). This Recommendation is concerned with both meanings and the qualifier "written" is generally omitted for brevity.

I (49) THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS (HABITAT II)

The Economic Commission for Europe,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 47/180 of 22 December 1992 on the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II),

Considering that the Conference will be a central event in the United Nations activities aimed at sustainable development and adequate shelter for all

and that it will further the work carried out within the framework of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development, where vital interdependencies were identified between human settlements development and the state of the natural environment,

Welcoming the decisions taken by the Commission on Human Settlements at its fourteenth session on preparations for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II),

Noting with satisfaction the efforts made and the progress accomplished by the Committee on Human Settlements during recent years in orienting its work towards its two major priority areas: sustainable human settlements and assistance to countries in transition,

Noting that the central themes suggested by the Commission on Human Settlements at its fourteenth session for the Conference, sustainable human settlements in an urbanizing world and adequate shelter for all, are also priority subjects in the programme of the Committee on Human Settlements,

Recognizing that sustainable development is a means by which an adequate living environment can be secured and maintained for present and future generations,

Recognizing also that in Europe significant differences in the quality of life and level of sustainability can be observed between countries,

Convinced that access to adequate housing for all is a topical social and economic issue that affects the well-being of the population in the current situation of radical socio-economic transition in many UN/ECE countries,

Fully aware that the provision of decent housing and a high-quality living environment is an important means of counteracting the growing trend towards international migration,

Aware also of the changing composition of UN/ECE membership and the tasks confronting transition countries, in particular, in developing and implementing sustainable settlements policies and provisions for adequate housing,

Convinced that the recent experience gained in UN/ECE countries in approaching and resolving human settlements problems, particularly in housing, can also be valuable to countries of other regions,

1. Decides to convene, within the context of the September 1994 meeting of the Committee on Human Settlements and at an appropriately high level, a regional preparatory meeting for the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), in accordance with General Assembly resolution 47/180;

2. Invites the Committee on Human Settlements to elaborate appropriate policy and action-oriented contributions in preparation of the regional meeting,

bearing in mind the experience with the implementation of the recommendations made by Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Vancouver, Canada, 1976);

3. Requests the Executive Secretary to make the necessary arrangements for the organization of the preparatory meeting, within existing resources, and to report to the Commission at its fiftieth session on the implementation of the present decision.

J (49) ECE'S CONTRIBUTION TO THE PREPARATORY WORK FOR THE FOURTH WORLD CONFERENCE ON WOMEN

The Economic Commission for Europe,

Recalling decision K (48) on the ECE´s contribution to the preparatory work for the Fourth World Conference on Women,

Referring to Resolution 38/10 of the Commission on the Status of Women, calling upon all Governments to establish national committees or to designate focal points for the preparations for the Fourth World Conference on Women,

Recalling General Assembly Resolution 48/108 and the formula of the Secretary General of the Conference defining the eligibility of the NGOs for their accreditation to the Fourth World Conference on Women and Regional Preparatory Meetings,

1. Takes note of the report of the Executive Secretary contained in documents E/ECE/1293 and E/ECE/1298;

2. Endorses the main headings of the draft agenda - as contained in document E/ECE/1302 - of the High Level Regional Preparatory Meeting which will be held from 17 to 21 October 1994 in Vienna;

3. Requests the secretariat to continue informal consultations with ECE member States, with particular emphasis on the elaboration of the ECE input into the Platform for Action, to be submitted to the High-level Regional Preparatory Meeting and for that purpose to convene a meeting at expert level in June 1994;

4. Decides to extend the deadline for applications for accreditation of NGOs without consultative status with ECOSOC to the High Level Preparatory Meeting until 1 August 1994;

5. Agrees that action to accredit these NGOs should be taken by the Commission meeting in June 1994 and September 1994 and that a complete list of NGOs be submitted to the September meeting of the Commission;

6. Notes with appreciation the contributions received for the financ of the High Level Preparatory Meeting and invites ECE member States to conti to consider contributing adequate funding for the Meeting.